

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2006
6 to 9 p.m.
College Hill Library, Room L-107
Front Range Community College, Westminster**

Board Chair Jerry DePoorter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzanne Allen, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Erin Hamby, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, Mike Maus, Bill McNeill, Andrew Ross, Hank Stovall / Rich Schassburger (DOE-RFFO), Mark Sattelberg (USFWS), Larry Kimmel (EPA), Carl Spreng (CDPHE), Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM)

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Tomlinson / none

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Bob Darr (DOE-RFPO), James Campbell (Arvada resident), Sam Garcia (EPA), Rob Henneke (EPA), Alan Trenary (Westminster resident) / Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS:

- Carl Spreng with CDPHE announced that his agency will be holding a 30-day public comment period for the Landfill Monitoring and Maintenance Plan and Post-Closure Plan for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Present Landfill. He asked the Board if it would be possible to use part of its March 2 meeting to hold a public hearing on the document. The Board agreed to his request.
- Ken Korkia reminded the Board that a conference call had been set up for Tuesday, February 7 with members of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board. Both Boards are scheduled to give a presentation on site closure issues at the April meeting of the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs. The purpose of the call is to work on a joint presentation. Ken asked to confirm who would be participating. The members include Jerry DePoorter, Erin Hamby, Hank Stovall and Suzanne Allen.
- Ken next asked the members whether they would be interested in visiting Rocky Flats later this spring. The members confirmed they would like to tour the site one last time. Ken will work on setting up a visit, tentatively set for sometime in May.
- Earl Gunia asked whether anyone had an update on release of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on Rocky Flats cleanup. Carl Spreng noted that DOE and the regulators had recently participated in exit interviews with the GAO staff. They had also reviewed a draft of the report checking it for factual content. Carl understands that GAO is still on schedule to release the report by mid-March.
- Earl also asked about the status of mineral rights acquisition. Mark Sattelberg with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that the President had signed the legislation on January 6. DOE and the Service are now in discussions about next steps. They are focusing on the four parcels of land specified in the legislation. In response to a question, Mark stated that the current mining activities can continue as per the existing permits. There is some consideration being given to acquiring some of the currently permitted holdings because they are part of a desirable habitat.

DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT RECOMMENATION ON THE PROPOSED PLAN:

At its Committee Night in January, Board members developed a draft recommendation on the Proposed Plan. Because the plan will not be released until summer, when the Board will be disbanded, the Board drew up the recommendation based on the alternatives for further cleanup in the draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

In the draft recommendation, the Board expressed its preference for a modified Alternative No. 2 in the RI/FS.

ADMIN RECORD

That alternative would not require any further cleanup activities but would call for monitoring and the implementation of institutional and physical controls. In its draft recommendation, the Board asked for stronger controls than were outlined in the RI/FS. The Board also advised that physical controls be inspected and a vegetation management plan be incorporated into the Proposed Plan. The recommendation includes a set of recommendations on further research avenues for the Department of Energy. The second part of the draft recommendation focused on public involvement. The Board advised that all Office of Legacy Management meetings be held in the evenings and the meetings be advertised in community media. It also counseled that DOE should hold a risk communication program for the public that would elucidate the risks that are posed by residual contamination. The Board recommended the site develop an annual management plan updating the public on monitoring and public involvement, among other things.

Gerald DePoorter opened the discussion by noting that the Environmental Protection Agency's guidance on writing the Proposed Plan called for public involvement in the remedy selection process. But he questioned how much public involvement there would be. When the plan is released, he said, the CAB will no longer be in existence and will not be able to make a recommendation on the actual draft plan. Bob Darr of Stoller Corp. responded that the public involvement process would go through the Local Stakeholder Organization. EPA's Rob Henneke said the public comment period would be 30 days but could be extended to 60 days upon request. He said public involvement would involve a formal hearing with a court reporter in a time and place that is convenient to the public.

A discussion of the draft recommendation ensued. The following are the highlights.

- It was agreed that some parts of this recommendation may be more appropriate to the Corrective Action Decision/Record of Decision (CAD/ROD) or the Rocky Flats Closure Agreement (RFCA 2) than to the Proposed Plan. It was agreed to add language to reflect that thought.
- In Recommendation I.A. on the Board's choice of an alternative, the risk level represented by 9.8 picocuries per gram in surface soil needs to be specified in the preamble.
- It was decided to remove the second part of Recommendation I.A. and make it a stand-alone recommendation on surface water quality. The Board agreed that if surface water quality standards are busted in the Woman Creek watershed, DOE should examine the cause and determine whether more surface soil needs to be removed in the Windblown Area.
- With regard to the Recommendation I.B., the Board informally agreed to change the second bulleted item to read that there should be a prohibition on the use of groundwater in the DOE retained lands. Because the use of groundwater may affect the hydrology of groundwater elsewhere, the Board also indicated it would ask the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not to use groundwater anywhere in the refuge.
- In I.B., the Board also agreed to ask for the state Covenant to apply only to DOE-retained lands.
- In I.C., it was pointed out that in the phrase "large and small mammals," should be changed to "wildlife."
- While the Board discussed signs around the DOE-retained lands, they could not agree on the exact purpose of the signs or what the signs should say. It was agreed to discuss this further at Committee Night.
- Recommendation I.D. on inspections should be changed to say that the Department of Energy should conduct inspections of physical controls once a week.
- No further changes were recommended on vegetation management.
- It was agreed that further discussion should take place on potential health studies and other scientific research.
- Under Public Involvement, II.A. should be changed to reflect that public meetings and events of Legacy Management should be advertised in community media.

- Under II.B., it should be stated that as long as controls are maintained at the DOE-retained lands, "the site should be safe."

It was also agreed that in Recommendation II.B, that the development of the risk program should be done by a consultant who is independent of DOE. Also under II.B., americium should be added to the list of contaminants to be examined in the risk program.

The Board will continue discussion of the draft recommendation at its February Committee Night meeting. The goal is to finalize the recommendation for consideration and approval at the March Board meeting.

PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

At the February 15 Committee Night meeting, the Board will continue discussing the draft recommendation on the Proposed Plan.

During the March Board meeting, the Board will finalize and approve its recommendation on the Proposed Plan. There also will be a public hearing on the Present Landfill Post-Closure Plan.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: March 2, 2006 6 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: College Hill Library, Room L-107, Front Range Community College
Agenda:

- *Public Hearing on the Landfill Monitoring and Maintenance Plan and Post-Closure Plan for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Present Landfill*
- *Approval of Board Recommendation on the Proposed Plan*

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 p.m. *

(* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in the RFCAB office.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Bill Kossack, Secretary
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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